

BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 10 October 2013

The Engineer's Cab

Eric Payne



Hello Again Everyone! Well, Fall is here, and it sure has been rainy the past few days. The newsletter is a week later than usual, based on a delay caused by some personal issues (remember, this is a volunteer organization and this includes your Editor) and some Club events (your Editor participated in the NMRA Mini-Con this past week). This Newsletter includes T-Trak Reviews, show previews and a railfanning article. Be sure not to miss the Time Machine (from 2005) with some history from "way back when" and the Club Calendar.

In Club News, it has been a whirlwind. September was busy and October included Trailer meetings, Raffle Layout projects, and Shows (Bedford, Gaithersburg and Kensington) In other news, The path to Inc. continues (non-profit status) and the Trailer is has made some progress. Be sure to attend the October Club Meeting for updates.

For those of you keeping up with BANTRAK via the Newsletter (and unable to attend Club Meetings and Events), we try and in-

clude a quick summary/review of the last Club meeting. Our last meeting was hosted by the Mark Bandy in Ellicott City, Md. Topics discussed included Show & Tell, Financial review, Show Reviews/Preview, Club Business (Club Dues and 2014 Summer Scheduled discussions and zero motions for spending Club Funds).

The October meeting will be at John Cook's in Crownsville and the November meeting NEEDS A HOST or it will be cancelled.. (see BANTRAK Calendar on last page.) As always, **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SHOW** & TELL.

The Current agenda items for the next Club Meeting include:

- Show & Tell (items you just bought, created or found)
- Show Reviews/Previews N-Trak & T-Trak
- Club Business update
 - Club Car Committee update (Bob Mohr)
 - Club Organization update (Tim Nixon)
 - Trailer Committee update (Eric Payne)
- Call for New Club Business

A few things for the immediate future. Sunday is our Club Meeting. We have a work session scheduled for 11am and we need those of you with buildings for the Raffle Layout to bring them if possible. Also, the NMRA Mini-Con was this past weekend and we will have a write up in the next issue.

As a constant reminder, please remember, we are a volunteer driven organization so "More Hands = Less Work" and above all... "Keep It Fun".



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Next meeting...

Sunday, October 20, 2013 @ 2-5pm (Work Session at 11am)

Location Host: John Cook Location: Crownsville, MD.

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GSMTS: October Preview

Alan Del Gaudio



The GREAT Scale Model Train Show, October 25-27, 2013

We're in the 2 week horizon so it's time to be more concrete.

We have 50 x70 square feet to display our layout. We've also been given 10 vendor tables.

Our plan is to have 2 independent layouts, one N-Trak, one oNe Trak [alliteration?]

For the N- Trak, two options are an "L" configuration or a "U" using the reversible corners as inside corner with the Horseshoe Curve, the Joy of all B&O fans. [ooops] Pennsylvania Rail Road fans.



So we'd like to get an idea of modules one can bring. We're trusting our oNe Trak steering committee for their layout plan. While we don't know what the B&O Festival of Trains layout may do of 1-T, it is available twice in October [earlier at the NMRA].

If you have 2 different N-T modules, but can only bring one, let us know what you have but state "OR". We'd like to see some modules that don't make it out too often.

As always, we need runners and this year, we'd like to see if we can get 4 run slots on Saturday. If the preliminary interest looks thin 1 week prior, we'll change to 3 slots. It would be good to start at 8:30 on Saturday so rails are clean and trains be a-running by 9 AM when the doors open. They stop selling tickets at 4 and want the place empty by 5. Thus, we show 4:30 as the end of running, but that leaves 4:30-4:55 to pack up your trains.

Sunday shows 3 slots from 9:30 to 3:30 and will be reviewed as well. Doors open for the public at 10 on Sunday.

Please contact me by e-mail to: aland2g@comcast.net to sign up for modules and a description thereof, set-up crew, vendor tables and the run schedule. Preference is given to those bringing modules, then set up crew, but we'd like to fit everyone in. It is possible to have 2 runners per line. Please indicate if you plan to run a hero train or have a great steel fleet buzzing around and want the line for you only.



Gaithersburg: September Review

Chris Hyland



On September 28th, BANTRAK did the last event for the season at the B&O station in Gaithersburg. Once again we set up underneath the tents in the brick square next to the RDC and the Freight station at 9 am. A three table layout was built in our triangular formation that we have come to know so well. A special treat was the appearance of Mt. Hubungi which is always fun to watch trains run on, over and under the mountain.

Members in Attendance were Jim Masters, Mat Chibbaro, Matt Whiting, Leon, and the Hyland clan. Leon, Mat C. and the Hylands all brought modules to the show.

Overall the show was a success for our last show at the museum for the season. Trains ran well and we had a decent crowd of people showing up to look at the layout in spite of all that was going on in the area at the time with discussion of the Government shutting down and what would be affected by it. I feel that running trains was the perfect way of taking peoples minds off things if just for a brief moment. We ran all sorts of trains from Rio Grande Passenger to Central of Jersey maintenance of way trains. Once again due to the grade around the station, people realized why helpers are sometimes necessary even in N scale. Also discussed with the city of Gaithersburg staff was the continuing progress to open the two museum railway cars (the caboose and RDC) to the public. CSXT provided us with more displays of their railway as well as Amtrak. Several freights came through including the Montgomery Waste Flyer. Also we saw another Amtrak special pulling more private cars this time with a different consist than before. 2pm arrived with us still having a large crowd to shoo away so that we could pack up. And with that brought a close to another season at the Gaithersburg community museum.

If you have missed a chance to get down to Gaithersburg, fear not. There are still two more chances to do so before the year is out. We are doing an all German set up for the Gaithersburg Oktoberfest, so come join us for trains, beer, and Al Potter's musical performance. After that we are doing one of my favorite events of the year: The Gaithersburg Artifacts show. If you are interested in attending either one, just shoot us an email.

Once again, I would like to thank all the guys who came out to Gaithersburg to run trains with us in our second year of doing so at the Museum. Also, last but not least, thanks again to the Government of the City of Gaithersburg, and Nansie Wilde with the Staff of the Community Museum for allowing us to run trains at the museum. Here's looking forward to another year.

Hope to see you at the shows,











Silver Spring Tower: Review (June)

Jeff Peck



Two weekends in a row, two different locations on the same day for the BANTRAK T-Trak contingent. The Hylands were in Jersey and Cliff, Leon, Mat, Matt, Matthew, Christian and I were at the B & O Silver Spring Station. Mat, Leon and I provided modules, Matt G-L set up an independent trolley layout. We had many visitors throughout the day and all were impressed with our display. CSX & Amtrak provided the show outside. Setup and teardown went quickly and we closed the book on another successful year with Montgomery Preservation.









Kensington Train Days: Review (cont.)

Chris Hyland



Continued from last month. Here are some pics.

Chris









Railfanning: A Demonstrator from EMD

Eric Payne



Last week, while attending the NKPHTS Convention in Indianapolis we were given a first look at an old Milwaukee Road F Unit in its new paint scheme.

Interesting Side Note. The NKP Herald on the front is magnetic, making it interchangeable with a Blue/ White Colts logo when in use as an NFL Game Day train in Indiana.







F7 demonstrators 801-802 roll tonnage across Peoria Division in the spring of 1949, Numbers and blue and silver paint job betrayed EMD's confidence that the 1500 h.p. freighters would end up on the Nickel Plate roster. This second attempt to vanquish the 700's failed to produce an order, however. After barnstorming across the U. S. and Canada, the units became Great Northern 272A-272B.



News & Notable: T-Trak Column

Chris Hyland



The Influence of Micro layouts on T Trak

No, this is not a rehash of Mahan and his hopes to have America as the greatest sea power in the world by building railway modules. Though that would be interesting to see. Rather, it is the influence that an exciting area of model railroading has had on us. It is also to show off T Trak is always trying to push the envelope on a small scale. It is akin to how many modules can one shove into a small closet and still get 14ft of mainline running.

Small layouts and Micro layouts have been around since the dawn of model railroading. They have even appeared on N Trak layouts. Though we may think of N trak layouts as being merely the Red, Yellow, and Blue lines, private railways have cropped up from time to time on the back of modules. Several examples of these are the PeNScalers elevated line, in which the mountain line is a private railroad that twists and turns in a elevated fashion above the main 3 lines. Matt Schaefer's New River Gorge had similar operations on a more grander scale with fly overs and operations occurring within the module when it was at it's height. Mat Chibbaro's modules have many times had a layout on the back past the blue line. Furrow Canyon showed off a few figure eights as well as his newer set of POFFS which have an entire railway embedded in them. I own his Pacific Union module and I have a figure eight operating layout on the end. So even in the world of club modular railroading, people are willing to carve a branch line or even an empire of their own.

But what has this go to do with T Trak? Quite a lot. When one gets into T Trak one usually thinks: "Hey I can get a decent scenic oval main line going on my dining room table. "Heck, I might even be getting a siding or two in to spice things up. But that is not all. The first thing that impressed this author with T Trak when originally got into the scene was Lee's city modules. I thought to myself at the time: "3 feet to get in a city, not bad, and done with less real estate than a POFF. At the time I was living in a one bedroom apartment with my (then) wife and space was always at a premium. To set up anything was to be a burden. I had resigned myself to having some sort of point to point time saver switcher thing. T Trak came to the rescue.

One thing that I feel that I must stress when designing in T Trak is that it is not what it first appears to be. It can take many forms. At one point, the Norfolk T Trakers came up with an idea which further pushed the envelope. The development of a mountain line. At the same time modules both here and in Australia started experimenting more with sidings and seeing what could fit on the modules. In essence filling in the blanks by adding more operational capacity to the T Trak modules. Railway Modeller, Continental Modeller, and Model Rail (All UK Publications) became sources of ideas. UK modelers for years had been trying to cram entire mainlines into small lofts and garden sheds. They also did lots of "hey that might just work for T Trak" micro layouts as well. At the same time, I fell under the spell of Carl Arendt's micro modelling group.T Trak was changing from just being a simple box with a two track main on the front.

Carl Arendt's Micro layout website showed how one with no space what so ever could have a layout of their own. Some of the ideas were at times a bit corny. Sometimes some of the ideas were just way too out there, but it did create a community that allowed others to see what could be done and then push the envelope from there. In some ways I feel that they were as influential to layout design as the SIG group was with their magazine during the 1990's. Carl soon had what he called a scrap book section in which he had modelers from all around the world submit layout ideas that they were working on. To further show what could be done he even had contests, one in particular called "Shoebox Madness". The idea for that one was what ever you could fit in a shoebox as a layout, any scale. So, if you could build a G scale switching layout in a shoebox, think of what you could do with a T trak module or series of modules. Many an hour I would wander through the layouts that showed up on the site and waited to see what the next months scrapbook would bring. Carl passed away a year ago, but his website still lives on with people still adding things to it. It is worth visiting if you have never been there before: www.carendt.com

But layout design did not stop there. Within the first year of BANTRAK's T trak Divisions founding, the Hyland Clan along with Jeff Peck came up with a well functioning switching district that operated both DC and DCC with the potential of operating using card movement as well. Mat Chibarro of BANTRAK figured out a way to make a three level layout called Mt. Hubungi, which shows off that T Trak is more than a mere box with 2 lines of unitrak on the front. The Hyland Clan's subway system has shown a layout that is multi functional with tube modules that could be used not only as subway transit tunnels, but also tunnels for regular layout's with stations that could substitute for stations like Penn Station in New York. When the tunnels were designed, they were built with the forethought of having double stacks run through them if necessary. Matt Guey-Lee has built a container yard.

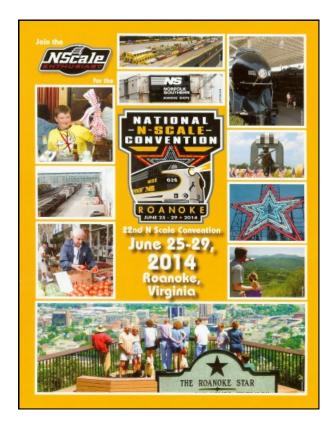
And we have come a long way very fast. T Trak is helping to build this years raffle layout, which looks like it will be a micro layout as well. Mat and Jeff have gotten together for a project that I am looking forward to see how it comes out. The raffle layout for this year is going to be an urban themed layout with a return to one of Mat's former layouts. Elements of the Fredonia Traction Company which was featured in his "Model Railroading In Small Places" (published by Kalmbach) are showing up on the layout which promises not only to have a main T Trak line, but a separate traction layout included as well. I am planning myself a similar style layout, but with a UK theme. For our next trick, who knows. Certainly keep your eyes open as we prove that a T Trak module more than a 1ish x 1ish box.

Chris





News & Notable: 2014 N Scale Convention (22nd Annual)



Check out ALL the action that happened in 2013 here

Visit the Convention registration website at www.NationalNScaleConvention.com



HOTEL INFORMATION:

Here is the <u>link</u> to get the best rate at the Sheraton

News & Notable: 2014 NMRA Convention (79th Annual)



THE 2014 NMRA
NATIONAL
CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OH
JULY 13 - 20, 2014

www.2014cleveland.org

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For Modelers

Layout Tours

Gunn P Sann P



Clinics

Operating Sessions

Contests

Prototype Modeling Displays **Potential Prototype Tours**



Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway



Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway



Mad River & Nickel Plate Museum

Potential Prototype Tours



Area Steel Mills



Age of Steam Roundhouse

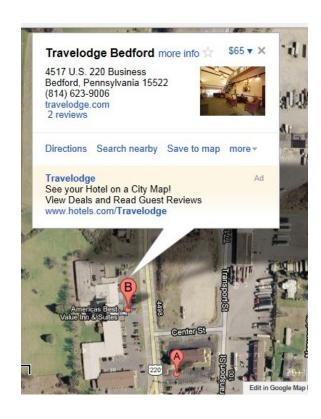
- The first working roundhouse and backshops built in the U.S since
- View their new facilities & collection of locomotives and rolling stock

Other Potential Tours

- Local shortlines
- GE Locomotive facility in Erie, PA
- Regional Light Rail facilities
 Local rail yards and shops







Ed Kapusinski, Webmaster



EDIITORS NOTE: We are in process of updating the website. Please be patient.

- Newsletter has been posted to the website
- Website design to be reviewed



Have an idea for new/ updated web content?

Contact the Webmaster with your ideas!

New & Notable: BANTRAK Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership





- The New Roster has been sent out.
- The current N-Trak Newsletter can be found here: http://ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-13-JAbw.pdf





BANTRAK does a significant amount of charitable activity, although we rarely think of it that way because we get pleasure out of it. When you think about it, that is "as it should be" with all "giving from the heart."

What is our charitable activity? Our major participation is in the B&O Museum's (which is a charitable organization) Annual Festival of Trains. Our display has been a major draw for people to come to the Museum for many years, both recent and in the past. There are plenty more examples, this is just one.



Club Member Benefits

- Sharing of your knowledge (railroading & modeling) with others of similar interests
- Access to railroading and modeling knowledge of other members
- National exposure and recognition of your endeavors in modeling
- Hands on activities: Club modules - track, wiring and scenery. Raffle layout - track and scenery Members' layouts whatever's asked
- Recognition as being part of a Nationally known club
- Purchase of surplus club property & access to group discounts

Please contact Al for more information on your membership.

New & Notable: BANTRAK Raffle Layout

Jeff Peck & Mat Chibbaro

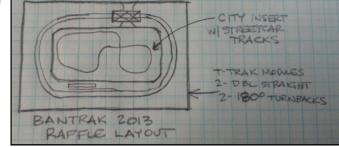


A Quick Update. We Spent a few hours at John's two Saturday's ago and we got the elevated part elevated and John graciously donated one of those Woodland Scenics/DPM Town kits that has 13 buildings which will more than take care of our urban scene needs. Those buildings have

been distributed to Club members for assembly with a goal of using them at our next work session (next Sunday at 11am before the October Club Meeting at John's)

We still need donations including

- Vehicles (60's era and up)
- Figures
- Details such as line poles, trashcans, dumpsters, mailboxes



See you at the October Work Session @ John's (11am).

Jeff (& Mat)

(P.S. be sure to see all the pics from the 2012 Raffle build sessions here).

New & Notable: BANTRAK 30th Anniversary Club



The project is coming along nicely and there is a target release date of summer 2013 (just like the real railroads, we are piggybacking on another order). Current sentiment is to go with a Fox Valley wagon top boxcar a la B&O and artwork has been finalized from FVM and approved by the committee.

We have confirmed enough Club Members are committed to meet the minimum order.

Questions can be directed to Bob Mohr at a Club Meeting or Show. Next update should be at the October meeting.





Website of the Month: Eastern Seaboard Models





Eastern Seaboard Models, based in New Jersey, specializes in N scale reproductions of North American eastern railroad prototypes.

Subscribe to their Newsletter here.



White Tower Restaurant 1930s/40s Art Deco styling





Past Websites

Ashlin Designs Great Lakes Models JMRI Road Signs Scale Town Models Citrus Modeling Aztec Trains BCWRR Banta Model Works GRS Micro Liting Monster Modelworks ImagineThatLaserArt **CMR Prairie Shadows Lunde Studios Shapeways** Osborn Model Kits Eastern CA Model RR **Heritage Units**

3 more people) If interested, please dr<u>op me an email</u>.

DCC Corner: (Exploring Digital Command Control)

RRampMeter by DCC Specialties

Editor's Note:

CMR is offering BANTRAK a bulk order discount on this kit (we need

Easy walk-around measurements of layout voltage drops, accurate booster output setup to optimum voltages for decoders and sound units. Easy walk-around measurements of layout voltage drops, accurate booster output setup to optimum voltages for decoders and sound units.

Visit the website here.





Go to the Tony's Train Exchange webpage, click here.

For more information contact treasurer@BANTRAK.net

Company Store Shirts and Wire Harnesses



Shirt Order Update

If you need a gray BANTRAK t-shirt, To Order, Email Club Treasurer Tim Nixon



Building a module or rescuing an old one? Get your wire harness. It doesn't get easier than this. Color coded / pre-installed power poles included.

List Priced at \$25 (plus shipping and handling).

To Order, Email Martin Myers and cc: Club Treasurer Tim Nixon



CLASSIFIEDS: **BANTRAK Inventory**

Recently, BANTRAK received a donation of N Scale items.

We will bring these to the September Meeting.

Bring cash and make us an offer;)







Trolling through the Archives (JAugust 2005 Newsletter) again. Thanks to John for this Write-Up. Enjoy.



The Proposed B&O Museum Show—A Golden Opportunity

s most of you know by now, Ed Williams, Head Curator of The B&O Museum, and I had a meeting in his office a couple of weeks back to discuss what I thought was a repeat performance of the BANTRAK Club's participation at the Museum's annual Festival of Trains. For those of you that may not recall or who were not members of the Club last November, we set up our layout in the Roundhouse for 10 days beginning the day after Thanksgiving. We ran weekdays from 10AM to 4PM and on weekends from 9AM to 5PM. Staffing was a little tight during the weekdays but we managed and received rave reviews from visitors and the Museum's management. When I called Ed in July to set up the meeting, he said that they were going to do something that was "a little different". Little did I know just how "different" it was going to be!

To make a long story short, Ed and the Museum have extended to BANTRAK an invitation to set up our layout and run during the entire Festival (Friday, November 25th through New Years). Unfortunately, the Roundhouse would not be available since it is booked solid with parties and other events through the entire holiday period. The alternative is to provide us with a private, weather tight, heated and fully lighted tent to be located just behind the Roundhouse and roughly adjacent to the outdoor G Scale layout. I understand that the O Scale Club that shared our floor space last year has already accepted this invitation. I also believe that other train clubs have been approached.

Ed has already made concessions to us in order to get us to accept this invitation. First, he has agreed that we can sell anything within the confines of the tent which would include our Raffle Layout Tickets and anything else we might have in mind to sell. Secondly, he has agreed that our weekday operation would not begin until noon instead of 10AM as was the case last year. Thirdly, he has promised that our layout will be widely promoted, both on their web sit and with plenty of signage at the Museum. He knows our concerns about the weather and temperature issues and has promised that these will be dealt with satisfactorily. I do not think that they would go to all this trouble unless they wanted us badly.

Obviously, there are a number of things that need to be considered, not the least of which is the weekday staffing issue. Admittedly, 6 weeks is a long time, but we successfully managed both the B&O Show and the Christmas Show in Westminster last year which was around 5 weeks in duration. Additionally, this would mean that we would not have to set up and break down twice during this

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

period as we did in 2004. Additionally, a long trip to Westminster or some other outlying site would be eliminated (anybody buy gas lately?). Finally, and I think this is a key point, we have been asked by a nationally recognized museum to participate in one of their key events. Quite frankly, I think the Club should be quite honored to be asked to do this, and I would hope that the membership agrees.

Those of us who are retired or semi-retired can cover during the weekdays, but we cannot do it all. It will mean sacrifices for most of us including the aforementioned "retirees", but, personally, I think this unique opportunity is worth it.

Obviously, this matter will receive significant discussion during our next BANTRAK Club Meeting on <u>August 14th</u>. Please make every effort to be there to share your views.

John

BANTRAK Call Board

(Activities & Events of BANTRAK Club Members)

NMRA Chesapeake Div. Group Mtg.

TBD

Info Contact: Arthur Boyd



Home Layout/Module Work Sessions

(Ongoing)

Info Contact: Alan Del Gaudio, Eric Payne,

Ed Kapusinski, Paul Diley





BANTRAK 2013 Calendar

This is a listing of all BANTRAK Monthly Meetings, Field Trips, 1-Trak and T-Trak events as well as current Volunteer Positions

				k is a volunteer driven THANK YOU for your
Date	Event	Location	Contact	Туре
5/19/2013	BowieFest / Club Meeting	Bowie, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
5/25/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
6/16/2013	Club Meeting	Baltimore, Md	Arthur Boyd	meeting
6/22/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
6/29 & 6/30	Silver Spring Station (B & O)	Silver Spring, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
7/20/2013	Club Work Session (Modules)	Glen Burnie, Md	Eric Payne	work session
7/21/2013	Club Meeting - Summer Pionic	Ellicott City, Md	Al Del Gaudio	meeting
7/27/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
8/17/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
8/17/2013	Club Work Session (Modules)	Glen Burnie, Md	Eric Payne	work session
8/18/2013	Club Meeting	Odenton, Md	Al Potter	meeting
8/24 & 8/25	Bedford N Scale Weekend	Bedford, Pa	Martin Myers / Paul Diley	show
9/7 & 9/8	JV w/ Capital O Scalers/TCA	Kensington, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
9/15/2013	Club Meeting / Raffle Layout Work Session	Ellicott City, Md	Mark Bandy	meeting
9/28/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
9/28/2013	Bowie Old Town Days	Bowie, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
10/5/2013	Silver Spring Station (B & O)	Silver Spring, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
10/12 & 10/13	NMRA Potomac & Chesapeake Convention	Twin Brooke, Md	John Hale/Chris	t-trak / 1-trak
10/12/2013	Kentlands Octoberfest	Rockville, Md	Chris Hyland	t-trak
10/20/2013	Club Meeting	Crownsville, Md	John Cook	meeting
10/26 & 10/27	Great Scale Model Train Show	Timonium, Md	Al Del Gaudio / Rick Dunstan / Ed Hyland	show
11/3/2013	Gaithersburg Artifact Show	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
11/9 & 11/10	Rockville Lions Show	Rockville, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
11/17/2013	Club Meeting / Club Work Session			meeting
12/1/2013	Trainspotting Day at Bowie RR Museum	Bowie, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
12/18/2013	B&O Festival of Trains	Baltimore, Md	Mark Bandy / Eric Payne	show
President VP1 VP2/Secretary Treasurer	Eric Payne Paul Diley Rick Dunstan Tim Nixon		2013 PROJECTS LocoNet Wiring Martin Myers / Bob Mohr Raffle Layout Jeff Peck / Mat Chibbaro Anniversary Club Car Bob Mohr	

Webmaster Ed Kapusinski (backup= John Hale) Trailer Martin Myers / Paul Diley (backup = Team)

Al Palewica

John Hasson





Trailer WorkGroup E. Payne, T. Nixon, M. Myers, J. Champlin, J. Hale, A. Potter, P.

Diley, S. Hayes, B. Mohr

BANTRAK was founded in 1983 as the Greater Baltimore N-Scale Associates. Begun as a "round robin" group to share skills and experiences, we have expanded our focus to include participation in many diverse activities to promote model railroading in general and N-Scale model railroading in particular. Activities include participation in local, regional and national shows, meets and conventions. BANTRAK membership includes membership in the national NTRAK organization.



The BANTRAK Newsletter is the official publication of Baltimore Area N-TRAK (BANTRAK), Inc.

This is your newsletter! Please send articles, photos, and suggestions to

Membership

Quartermaster